MISCEL-LANEOUS

(v) Horticulture and Public Gardens.

1258. The Department of Horticulture in Mysore has maintained all round progress in the development of horticulture in all its branches such as the development of fruit, vegetable and flower cultivation in the State. Introduction, acclimatisation and propagation of economic plants, maintenance and development of Government and Public Parks and Gardens in the State has been attended to most satisfactorily. The Department has rendered help to farmers, village panchayets, district boards and municipalities in the selection of suitable land for starting fruit and vegetable gardens in obtaining advice regarding the supply of suitable plants for the different localities in the State and in obtaining technical advice in pruning, manuring, cultural methods and plant pest control, etc.

Earn While you Learn Scheme.

1259. This Scheme was introduced in 1954, to make the students work in farms and thereby teach them the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, etc. This Scheme is now being tried at the Fruit Research Station, Hessarghatta and Horticultural Farm at Maddur.

1260. The layout of Vidhana Soudha was sanctioned and the work was taken up from June 1955.

The Botanical Gardens, Lalbagh, Bangalore.

1261. The Botanical Gardens, Lalbagh, is the chief centre of horticultural activities in the Department and it has done much service for the development of horticulture and the general increase of plant wealth of the State.

1262. During the year, the introduction of plants generally and economic plants in particular from both in and abroad, their acclimatisation and propagation was carried out on a large scale. Many plants and seeds introduced to Lalbagh were multiplied and distributed to various parts of the State by supplying them to *bona fide* cultivators.

Nursery training.

1263. Many literate hands having Lower Secondary qualification were entertained as temporary mazdoors and were given intensive practical training in various aspects of gardening during the year.

Technical service.

1264. Technical advice and information of a miscellaneous nature covering botanical, economical, medicinal horticultural aspects etc., was continued to be given to a

wide circle of public as well as Government and private institutions.

Manual Labour and Social Work.

1265. Manual labour and social work programme organized by the Department of Public Instruction and Education, was put into practice in Lalbagh. Many Middle and High Schools participated in the said programme by sending their boys in batches to do some manual work. The services of the students were utilised to desilt the Lalbagh tank bed, weeding the lawns in Lalbagh and for doing some cleaning, potting and cultivation works at Lalbagh nursery.

Shows and Exhibitions.

1266. During the year, Lalbagh garden participated in all the three Horticultural Shows conducted by the Mysore Horticultural Society.

1267. During the year, broadcasts were given on the All-India Radio, Bangalore, regarding the Department and horticultural subjects for the benefit of the rural folk under Rural Programme by the technical staff.

1268. During the year, many interesting lectures on scientific subjects in connection with the garden festival week and on other occasions were held.

Free Horticultural Training Courses.

1269. The Horticultural Training Course on Sundays for 1955-56 was held under the auspices of the Mysore Horticultural Society and free services of the departmental staff and the staff of Agricultural Department, etc., were utilised for imparting training to the students on various aspects of horticulture.

Maintenance and Improvement of Garden.

1270. The maintenance of the garden was quite satisfactory. The lawns were kept trim as far as possible by removing weeds, tuft grass, etc., and by manuring, hoeing, cleaning. Judicious pruning of the trees and shrubs was done during the proper season to keep them to proper shape and make them flower in certain cases.

1271. During the year, the Glass House at Lalbagh was made use of by the State several times during the visit of the Premier of Russia and other dignitaries for arranging State Banquets and entertainments and Tea Parties. Number of private bodies like the Corporation and also private persons arranged functions in the Glass House.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore.

1272. The zoo was open to the public throughout the year and recorded a number of 2,44,256 visitors.

Krishnarajasagara Section.

1273. The Brindavan Gardens maintained their popularity and reputation as a "Beauty spot" and several distinguished visitors in and outside India visited the famous gardens throughout the year.

Nandi Hill Station.

1274. The Nandi Hill Station continued to be a popular health and summer resort in the State. As a beauty spot it attracted large number of tourists.

1275. As a result of the intensive activities of the Department, there is a general horticultural awakening among the people and it is observed that more and more people are taking to cultivation of fruits and vegetables on a commercial scale as may be evidenced by the number of new gardens that have sprung up in many parts of the State and this has resulted in the increase of the out-put of vegetables and fruits.

(vi) Stores Purchase Committee.

1276. The total value of orders placed (including the approximate value of annual rate contracts) with firms in India during the year amounted to about Rs. 3,08,45,562 as against Rs. 2,65,43,593 in the previous year. The total value of orders placed with firms in foreign countries amounted to Rs. 76,47,262 as against Rs. 54,96,336 in the previous year. The total value of all purchases arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee both from firms in India and in foreign countries during the year amounted to Rs. 3,84,92,824 as against Rs. 3,20,39,929 in the previous year. The fluctuation in prices in respect of a good number of materials continued as in the previous year. The number of ex-stock offers was small. The tendency towards enhancement of prices and delays in delivery continued and the prices quoted by foreign firms were not firm and were generally subject to "Price Variation Clause". Most of the requirements of Government Departments were met by or through indigenous firms.

1277. The sale proceeds of the Tender Forms during the year amounted to Rs. 54,741-8-0 as against Rs. 47,170 in the previous year.